

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 3518 - SB 3598**

February 23, 2012

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Extends indefinitely the provision, currently set to expire on June 30, 2012, stating that the sale of herbs or natural health information exchanges will not be considered naturopathy, and thus unlawful, as long as the sale is not conducted for the purpose of the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of any physical ailment or physical injury to or deformity of another, and the seller obtains a signed acknowledgment from the buyer that the seller is neither a licensed practitioner of the healing arts in Tennessee, nor meets the recognized qualification criteria that would allow the provision of any form of diagnosis, treatment recommendation, or medical care in Tennessee.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

**Assumptions:**

- Under current law, the practice of naturopathy is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor.
- Extending indefinitely the current exclusion of the sale of herbs or natural health information exchanges from the definition of naturopathy, if certain conditions are met, will not result in a significant impact on the caseloads of state or local courts, the Department of Health, or the Board of Medical Examiners.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-3-1011, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. As of June 30, 2011, the Board had a cumulative balance of \$1,465,207.30.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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